

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSC-05

NSCE-00 OC-01 CCO-00 A-01 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 L-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2449

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

JCS PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

USNMR SHAPE

USDEL MC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 982

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR GR US

SUBJECT: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS - STATUS OF FORCES (SOFA)

REF: ATHENS 977 (02/1530Z FEB 76

SUMMARY: GREEKS, BOTH IN PLENARY AND SOFA SUBGROUP SESSIONS, CONTINUE TO URGE EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW SOFA. IN OUR VIEW, EXPEDITIOUS IMPLEMENTATION WOULD HELP TO DEMONSTRATE PUBLICLY PROGRESS IN OVERALL NEGOTIATIONS AND HIGHLIGHT CONTINUING US EFFORTS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO LEGITIMATE GREEK CONCERNS. WASHINGTON APPROVAL OF DRAFT EXCHANGE OF NOTES DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE DRAFT SOFA, AD INTERIM, DURING THIS ROUND, REQUESTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE GREEKS HAVE MADE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR, BOTH AT THE PLENARY AND SOFA SUBGROUP LEVEL, THAT EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DRAFT SOFA IS A PRIMARY GREEK OBJECTIVE

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MENTATION OF THE DRAFT SOFA IS A PRIMARY GREEK OBJECTIVE

IN THIS ROUND OF THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS. ASSUMING THAT THE POV TAX ISSUE WILL BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED, GREEKS DESIRE TO LET IT BE KNOWN PUBLICLY THAT A NEW BILATERAL SOFA PREMISED ON RENEWED RESPECT FOR GREEK SOVEREIGNTY IS BEING IMPLEMENTED. HOWEVER, THE GREEKS ALSO ENVISAGE THAT THE NEW SOFA WILL BE FORMALLY EXECUTED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE NEW FRAMEWORK OF AGREEMENTS AND WILL EVENTUALLY BE ANNEXED TO A NEW MILITARY FACILITIES AGREEMENT. THEY THEREFORE PROPOSE THAT THE DRAFT SOFA BE IMPLEMENTED ON AN INTERIM BASIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. THE US SIDE OF THE SOFA SUBGROUP INFORMALLY SUGGESTED THAT WHEN A NEW SOFA IS FULLY AGREED AD REFERENDUM, AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ACCOMPLISH ITS AD INTERIM IMPLEMENTATION. THE GREEK SIDE INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO SUCH AN APPROACH AND THE TWO SIDES EXCHANGED VIEWS REGARDING THE CONTENTS OF SUCH AN EXCHANGE.

3. THE FOLLOWING DRAFT EXCHANGE OF NOTES, DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW SOFA ON AN INTERIM BASIS, IS PROVIDED FOR WASHINGTON REVIEW. WE WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO EXECUTE SUCH AN INTERIM IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS, PROVIDED OF COURSE THAT THE POV TAX ISSUE CAN BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED AND THAT WASHINGTON SHARES OUR VIEW THAT SUCH A COURSE WILL ENHANCE OUR OVERALL NEGOTIATING POSTURE.

4. COMMENCE TEXT OF DRAFT EXCHANGE OF NOTES: EXCELLENCY: I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO OUR CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THE STATUS OF UNITED STATES FORCES IN GREECE AND TO THE TERMS OF THE ATTACHED BILATERAL STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN AGREED AD REFERENDUM BY OUR RESPECTIVE DELEGATIONS. I HAVE THE HONOR TO INFORM YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO IMPLEMENT THE ATTACHED AGREEMENT AD INTERIM, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

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1. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES RESERVE THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ATTACHED AGREEMENT, EITHER IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AT ANY TIME UNTIL IT MAY HAVE BEEN FORMALLY EXECUTED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE LEGAL PROCEDURES;

2. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE AUTHORIZES THE SIZE

OF THE CIVILIAN COMPONENT OF THE UNITED STATES FORCES, AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE I OF THE ATTACHED AGREEMENT, TO EXCEED TWENTY-TWO AND ONE-HALF PERCENT OF THE TOTAL CIVILIAN WORK FORCE UNTIL EIGHTEEN MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED SUBSEQUENT TO THE FORMAL EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENT BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN TURN AGREES THAT DURING THIS PERIOD THE SIZE OF THE CIVILIAN COMPONENT SHALL NOT EXCEED TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL CIVILIAN WORK FORCE WITHOUT THE EXPRESS CONSENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE;

3. THAT DURING THE PERIOD OF THE INTERIM IMPLEMENTATION THE ATTACHED AGREEMENT SHALL SUPERSEDE THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE KINGDOM OF GREECE CONCERNING THE STATUS OF UNITED STATES FORCES IN GREECE, DATED SEP 7, 1956, AND THE PROVISIONS OF ALL OTHER EXISTING AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS RESPECTING THE STATUS OF THE UNITED STATES FORCES, THE MEMBERS OF THOSE FORCES AND OF THE CIVILIAN COMPONENT, AND DEPENDENTS, IN GREECE, WHICH MAY BE INCONSISTENT WITH ITS TERMS. UNTIL THE TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS CONTEMPLATED BY THE ATTACHED AGREEMENT ARE COMPLETED, EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THAT AGREEMENT, MAY CONTINUE TO APPLY.

IF THE FOREGOING PROVISIONS AND AGREEMENT ATTACHED HERETO ARE ACCEPTABLE TO YOUR GOVERNMENT, THIS NOTE AND YOUR EXCELLENCY'S NOTE IN REPLY INDICATING SUCH ACCEPTANCE SHALL BE HONORED AS CONSTITUTING THE AGREEMENT OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING THIS MATTER.

PLEASE ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE RENEWED ASSURANCES OF  
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MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END TEXT.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING WASHINGTON AUTHORITY TO TABLE THIS DRAFT EXCHANGE OF NOTES AT NEXT SOFA SUBGROUP SESSION TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR 4 FEBRUARY. WE WOULD PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE WASHINGTON COMMENTS RELATIVE TO THE NECESSITY OF THE FIRST NUMBERED PARAGRAPH OF THE DRAFT. THE GREEK SIDE HAS INDICATED IT MAY HAVE SOME RESERVATION AS TO INCLUDING SUCH PROVISION IN THE CONTEMPLATED EXCHANGE OF NOTES.  
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